

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 CU-02 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /084 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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EA/RA FOR HARRIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, JA, OEXC
SUBJECT: AFL-CIO/DOMEI ANNUAL TALKS

REF: TOKYO 5296

1. BEGIN LOU. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT JOINT COMMUNIQUE PREPARED BY DOMEI INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR PRESENTATION TO DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON OPENING DAY OF TALKS, MAY 16. AS INDICATED REFTEL, DOMEI EXPECTS THAT AFL-CIO WILL ALSO PREPARE A DRAFT AND THAT BOTH WILL SERVE AS BASIS OF DISCUSSION. DOMEI INTERNATIONAL BUREAU DIRECTOR AIHARA GAVE COPY TO LABATT WHEN SEEKING HELP IN CORRECTING DRAFT'S ENGLISH BUT SAID THAT DOMEI DOES NOT INTEND TO SEND COPY TO AFL-CIO BEFORE TALKS BEGIN. THEREFORE, WHILE WE RECOMMEND THAT FOLLOWING BE PASSED TO AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LEE, IN ORDER TO SAVE AIHARA AND OURSELVES FROM EMBARRASSMENT, WE HOPE AFL-CIO PARTICIPANTS IN JOINT TALKS WILL NOT INDICATE TO DOMEI PARTICIPANTS THAT THEY ALREADY IN POSSESSION OF DOMEI'S SUGGESTIONS. END LOU.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN TEXT:
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ON MAY 16-19, 1977, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JAPANESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (DOMEI) AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS (AFL-CIO) HELD THEIR NINTH REGULAR MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

OUR DISCUSSION WAS FRIENDLY AND FRANK AS USUAL. WE EXAMINED

SUCH IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUES AS THE TOTALITARIAN THREAT WHICH IMPERILS FREEDOM, PEACE, AND DEMOCRACY IN THE FREE WORLD. WE ALSO EXAMINED COMMON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING OUR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL ECONOMIES AND WORKERS LIVELIHOOD, SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL TRADE, UNEMPLOYMENT, RECESSION, INFLATION, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE 200 NAUTICAL MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.

1. THE MEETING DEPLORED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SUCH AS UNESCO AND THE ILO, WHOSE CONSTITUTIONAL CHARACTER AND AIMS HAVE BEEN DISTORTED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. WE AGREED THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE TO OBTAIN GREATER COOPERATION FROM GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER TRADE UNIONS IN ORDER TO SHIELD THESE ORGANIZATIONS FROM SUCH ABUSES AND ENABLE THEM TO FULFILL THEIR INHERENT ROLE OF FURTHERING WORLD PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

2. THE MEETING RECOGNIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF CERTAIN CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE SHORTAGE OF FOOD AND ENERGY RESOURCES, THE 200 NAUTICAL MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, AND THE HUGE ACCUMULATION OF TRADE DEFICITS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE OIL CONSUMERS.

3. THE MEETING CALLED ATTENTION TO THE INCREASINGLY CLOSER INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY WITH REGARD TO ENERGY, FOOD, RAW MATERIALS, RESOURCES OF THE SEA, MANUFACTURED GOODS AND TRANSPORTATION. WE REAFFIRMED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY MUST PROCEED ALONG LINES OF FREE TRADE WHICH IS BASED ON THE SPIRITS OF RECIPROCITY, EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS.
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4. WE POINTED OUT THAT GOVERNMENTS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES ARE ADOPTING VERY UNSATISFACTORY ANTI-INFLATIONARY POLICIES WHICH, BY CREATING HEAVY UNEMPLOYMENT, ARE CARRIED OUT AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKERS AND RESULT IN SEVERE RECESSION WORLDWIDE. WE BELIEVE THAT TRADE UNIONS SHOULD ENGAGE IN FRIENDLY TALKS (PRIOR CONSULTATIONS) BEFORE THESE PROBLEMS REACH A CRITICAL STAGE AND SHOULD TRY TO OBTAIN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WITH REGARD TO THESE PROBLEMS.

5. WE EXPRESSES OUR ANXIETY OVER THE SHORTSIGHTED ECONOMIC RECOVERY POLICIES OF SOME GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE ATTEMPTING TO STEM THEIR DETERIORATING INTERNATIONAL TRADE BALANCES BY RELYING EXCLUSIVELY ON EITHER EXPORT EXPANSION OR IMPORT CURBS (PROTECTIONISM). IF MATTERS REMAIN AS THEY ARE, ECONOMIC TENSIONS WILL INCREASE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ECONOMIC CONFLICT SOMEWHERE LEADS TO CONFLICT EVERYWHERE.

6. WE BELIEVE IN OBTAINING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CONSENT

BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS IN ORDER TO SOLVE INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROBLEMS IN A MANNER WHICH WILL AVOID MARKET DISRUPTIONS AND THEIR ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE LIVES OF WORKERS.

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EA/RA FOR HARRIS

7. AFL-CIO AND DOMEI AGREED TO STRONGLY URGE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT AND PROMOTE WORKERS WELFARE BY ADOPTING APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY POLICIES, INCLUDING PRICE STABILIZATION, TAX REFORM AND ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR WORKERS.

8. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS CONTINUE THEIR WORLDWIDE ACTIVITIES IN PURSUIT OF HUGE PROFITS WITHOUT SHOWING THE SLIGHTEST CONSIDERATION FOR WORKING PEOPLE OR FOR THEIR HOST COUNTRIES. WE WELCOMED THE ADOPTION OF THE OECD CODE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CODE REGULATING THE BEHAVIOR OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. WE AGREED TO COOPERATE IN SECURING ADOPTION BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND OF CODES OF BEHAVIOR FOR THE MULTINATIONALS.

9. THE MEETING NOTED THAT ASIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS FACE SUCH SERIOUS PROBLEMS AS EXPOSURE TO THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM, POVERTY, STARVATION, EXPLODING POPULATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INCREASE IN THEIR COUNTRY'S TRADE DEFICITS AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLDWIDE RECESSION. WE RECOGNIZED THAT ASIAN TRADE UNIONS ARE STRUGGLING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ORGANIZATIONS
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AND THAT BOTH MATERIAL SUPPORT AND TRADE UNION PERSONNEL MUST BE EXTENDED TO THEM TO HELP THEM IN THIS STRUGGLE. THE MEETING RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLES WHICH MUST BE PLAYED BY BOTH AFL-CIO AND DOMEI IN INCREASING ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN LABOR MOVEMENTS.

10. AS AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS, DOMEI AND AFL-CIO AGREED TO COOPERATE IN STRENGTHENING FREE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS IN ASIA BY MEANS OF PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN COOPERATION WITH ASIAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS.

11. AFL-CIO AGREED TO SUPPORT THE DOMEI CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF THE RESTORATION TO JAPAN OF THE FOUR NORTHERN ISLANDS, WHICH ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE BUT HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED ILLEGALLY BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

12. IN ORDER TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO CHANGES IN THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE MORE FREQUENT EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND TO DISCUSS MUTUAL NEEDS, WE AGREED TO HOLD MEETINGS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE DOMEI/AFL-CIO JOINT COMMITTEE AS THE OCCASION REQUIRES. DOMEI AND AFL-CIO ALSO AGREED TO PROMOTE MUTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AT THE INDUSTRIAL UNION LEVEL AND TO HOLD THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE IN TOKYO IN 1978. END TEXT. END UNCLASSIFIED. SHOESMITH

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